

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

ORNITHOLOGY LABORATORY NOTEBOOK. By Arthur A. Allen. Comstock Publishing Company, Inc., Ithaca, New York, fifth edition, 1947: 8 × 10½ in., vi + 256 pp., 301 figs., 131 maps. \$4.00.

The fifth edition of Allen's well-known Ornithology Laboratory Notebook differs little from the previous edition reviewed by Frederick H. Test (1941. *Wilson Bulletin*, 53:135-136). Test's thoughtful and adequate description of the book can be consulted by readers desiring more information than is given here.

The more important changes in this new edition are: first, the inclusion of a three-page list of "Reference Works to Consult in Completing the Life History and Identification Charts"; second, the transfer of 104 outline drawings of birds (from an appendix of 188 such drawings in the fourth edition) to the life-history charts, one species per chart—as they were arranged in the earliest edition. To the synopsis of "Summer and Winter Ranges of North American Birds [that occur in central New York]" have been added the Mute Swan, Long-tailed Jaeger, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Audubon's Warbler, European Goldfinch, Hoary Redpoll, and Greater Redpoll, because of recent occurrences in the Ithaca region. Also, the "races" of the Black Duck have been dropped, and, in general, changes recommended by the Supplements to the A.O.U. Check-List appear to have been adopted insofar as they are pertinent to this synopsis. The frontispiece, Merriam's life-zone map of North America, is reproduced as a half-tone rather than in color; as a result, it loses both in forcefulness and usefulness.

The preface to this edition is the same as that to the fourth except for minor details and three new paragraphs in which the author excuses the absence, in his version of an ornithological notebook, of detailed material on anatomy, classification, speciation, and ecology, on the grounds that it would "tend to confuse the beginner who is interested primarily in learning how to recognize the local birds and to interpret their behavior." Also, the author states that he "clings to the life zone theory of C. Hart Merriam, not in the belief that it explains everything, but because it is the most convenient, the most orderly, and the most compact method of expressing the irregularities of occurrence of our nesting bird populations." These excerpts speak for themselves. The various editions of this notebook have hardly kept up with advances in knowledge, teaching, and viewpoints in modern ornithology. The fact is that the main laboratory work of the student using this edition in 1947 is, as it was in the 1920's, compiling detailed life-history material for as many as 130 species. I do not doubt that this will keep a student busy for a semester, but what progress will he make in understanding fundamental biological problems as they relate to birds?—Frank A. Pitelka.

FLASHING WINGS. By Richard M. Saunders. Illustrations by Terence M. Shortt. McClelland and Stewart Limited, Toronto, 1947: 6 × 9 in., xii + 388 pp., one insert table, two end-paper maps, colored frontispiece, and 36 line drawings. \$4.50.

This book is composed mainly of selections from the journal of an enthusiastic bird watcher at Toronto, Ontario (not the late W. E. Saunders of London). The journal covers the period 1935 to 1946, but the entries have been grouped in twelve chapters, one for each month of the year, rather than in the sequence of the years. This arrangement has been used in order that the book may serve "as a guide to the birds that one may expect to see in this region at any time of the year." The value of the book as a local report on the birds of Toronto is enhanced by two appendices containing tables summarizing migration records extending over 27 years, Christmas bird counts for the years 1925 to 1945, and an index.